

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILMEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The following particulars relate to the year 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Clerk. Part time.

Medical Officer. Part time.

F. Metcalfe, Cert R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION A.Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	72,000 (approx)
R.G's estimate of residential population (mid 1942)	12,240
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)	3.516
Rateable Value	£52,184
Sum represented by penny rate	£225

Extracts from the vital statistics of the year.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<u>Live Births</u>	202	101	101	Birth Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	170	85	85	of the population
Illegitimate	32	16	16	16.54
<u>Still Births</u>	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 of
Legitimate	6	3	3	all births 29.7
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil	
<u>Deaths</u>	184	85	99	Death Rate per 1,000
				of the population
				15.03

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

(Headings from R.G's short list)

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis nil

No. 30. Other Puerperal causes nil

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	84.15
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	88.23
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	62.5
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

SECTION B

1. Public Health Staff. See the beginning of the Report.

2. (a) Laboratory facilities as in previous years.

6 Swabs for the diagnosis of Diphtheria were positive and 24 negative.

Examination of two specimens of blood for typhoid were negative.

One blood test was negative for Wasserman reaction.

(b) Ambulance facilities as in previous years & satisfactory.

(c) Nursing in the Home as in previous years and not under the control of the Council.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres as in previous years, under the control of the Nursing Association of the County Council.

(e) Hospitals as in previous years.

SECTIONS C. D. & E.

See the Sanitary Inspector's accompanying report.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

Eight cases of diphtheria were notified but they were spread throughout the area during the whole year and did not assume epidemic form. In the Registrar General's list, two deaths from diphtheria are notified.

Most of the cases of Scarlet Fever notified occurred in an epidemic form in Thirsk during the third quarter of the year.

There were 20 cases of Whooping Cough and 8 cases of Measles. There was 1 death attributable to Measles.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1943

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	19	15	nil
Diphtheria	8	8	2
Pneumonia	-	-	9*
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Puerperial Pyrexia	-	-	-

* None of these were notified.

<u>Age.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Diphtheria .</u>
1 - 2	-	-
2 - 3	-	-
3 - 4	-	-
4 - 5	-	-
5 - 10	11	-
10 - 15	5	3
15 - 20	1	2
20 - 35	2	3
45 - 65	-	-
65 & over	-	-
Total	19	8

3. Cancer. No action taken.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis. As in previous years.

<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	1	2	2	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT 1943.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>		<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
All causes		85	99
Whooping Cough	....	-	-
Diphtheria	....	2	-
Influenza	....	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	2	1
Cancer	....	8	17
Diabetes	....	2	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage	....	8	7
Heart Disease	....	25	36
Other Circulatory diseases	....	2	2
Bronchitis	....	4	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	....	5	4
Other respiratory diseases	....	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	....	1	-
Appendicitis	....	-	-
Other digestive diseases	....	1	2
Nephritis	....	2	3
Congenital Debility & Pre Birth	....	3	8
Suicide	....	-	-
Other violence	....	6	2
Other defined diseases	....	11	9
Diseases ill defined or not known	....	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	-	1
Totals	....	85	99

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.G. MacArthur,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1943.

Mr. F. Metcalfe, M.S.I.A., C.R. San. I.,
Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Certified Meat
and Other Foods Inspector.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report of the Public Health Administration
in the Area for the year 1943.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. 45 Visits were made regarding water supplies and 32
samples were submitted for examination with the following results:-

No. of Waters found satisfactory,	Wells 12,	Piped supplies 6.
No. of Waters found suspicious,	Wells 5,	Piped supplies -
No. of Waters found unfit,	Wells 6,	Piped supplies 3.

Well waters in the township of Sinderby were amongst the
wells examined and several were found unsatisfactory and in con-
sequence of same, a scheme for an improved supply was considered.

Of the unfit piped water supplies four concerned the township
of Thirlby.

This is a privately owned supply, the water being derived
from Springs fed to small service tanks and serves 22 out of the
31 houses comprising this village.

It was subsequently found that the springs were improperly
impounded thus leading to contaminations. These were remedied as
far as possible and repairs made to the service reservoirs and
subsequent samples showed the water to be satisfactory for
drinking.

This supply can only however be a makeshift during the War
period for it is not sufficient for all householders and the mains
require overhaul and enlarging in order to cover all needs.

Drainage and Sewerage. - The sewage tanks, cesspools and ditches
which serve most of the villages as sewerage arrangements have
received periodical attention so as to prevent nuisance. In all
103 tanks have been cleaned out and 21 sewers cleaned or repaired.
Tanks are emptied bi-annually and ditches yearly, the contents of
tanks are disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes.

Public Cleansing. - The Council at present undertake the collection
and removal of household refuse and emptying of Cesspools in
Thirsk, Sowerby, Carlton Miniott and Langthorpe.

The Council own one Motor Refuse Collector and the work is
carried out by direct labour. Refuse from dustbins, ashpits, etc.,
is tipped and covered so as to reclaim agricultural land, wet
filth is disposed of direct onto agricultural land for manurial
purposes, sludge carts being used for the conveyance of same.

A scheme for the scavenging of the whole of the area was under
consideration at the commencement of hostilities, and it is to be
hoped that such scheme will now eventually materialise. An efficient
refuse collection system will do much to avoid spread of disease
and vermin and also prevent disfigurement of the villages by tins,
bottles and other refuse.

Salvage. - Paper, Metals, Textiles, Rubber, Glassware and broken
glass are collected by a scheme covering the whole of the rural
area and also the greater part of the Wath Rural area.

Collections are made by one Motor Lorry owned by the Council
and are carried out by direct labour, collecting once each month
from each of the depots now provided in the larger villages, the
Salvage being sorted and bagged up under the supervision of the
Village Organiser in accordance with our Village Dump Scheme for
the area, thus allowing all villages to be visited each month and
minimum loss of time at each village.

For collections in Thirsk and Sowerby, Street Organisers were enrolled and the W.V.S. gave their services for same. Cog badges were issued to all young helpers in this scheme which in many respects proved satisfactory and ensured that all houses were covered.

During the year the County Book Drive took place and resulted in a total of 3,753 books being allotted to the Forces, besides 7½ tons of books for re-pulping.

The W.V.S. and other helpers proved of invaluable assistance in the sorting of the books received, besides the School Masters, Mistresses and Children who made the Drive such a success.

During the year 207 tons of Salvage were sold, comprising,

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>
Paper	80	14
Scrap Metal	25	12
Small Tins	50	13
Non-ferrous Metals		8½
Textiles	6	17
Rubber	20	11
Bones	4	4¾
Bottles - Jars)	18	-
Broken glass)		

Total mileage covered by the collecting vehicle during the year was 5740 miles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total inspections made during the year	454
Total re-inspections made during the year	116

Inspections of houses (Public Health and Housing Acts)	28
Inspections of Farms & Dairy Premises (Milk & Dairies Order)	20
Inspections of Food	37
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	3
Inspections of Drains, Sewers and Sewage	81
Inspections of Verminous premises	7
Inspections of Factories	1
Visits re Water Supplies	45
Visits re New Buildings and Council's Bye-laws	21
Visits re Scavenging	7
Visits re Salvage	57
Visits re Infectious Diseases	22
Visits re Council Houses	98
Visits re Housing Sites	14
Visits re Fuel & Lighting	8
Visits re Overcrowding	1
Visits re War Damage	1
Visits re Public Conveniences	6
Visits re A.R.P. Mortuary	4
Visits re Caravans	2

No. of premises which required Sanitary improvement	118
No. of nuisances dealt with	70
No. of complaints received and dealt with - Milk	24
- General	48
No. of premises disinfected	22
No. of premises disinfectated	5
No. of drains tested	3
No. of Water Samples submitted for Analysis	32
No. of Sewage samples sent for examination	1

Notices etc.

Informal Notices to Owners and Occupiers	58
Informal Notices complied with	40
Statutory Notices to Owners and Occupiers	6
Statutory Notices complied with	4

Shops - No action
Smoke abatement - No action
Swimming Baths & Pools - None
Eradication of Bed Bugs - No action

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses - None
Tents, Vans and Sheds - No action
Slaughterhouses - All slaughtering of animals carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse at Northallerton.
3 Licences issued to Slaughtermen under Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

Rats and Mice Destruction - Infestation Order 1943.

The County Council delegated their powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Food, the Council proceeded towards a survey of their district.

Lectures were attended and subsequently a Rodent Officer was appointed by the Council.

The survey was commenced early in December and up to the year end, 101 inspections were made concerning 197 premises in the area with the following results:-

Major Infestations 7; Heavy Minor 6; Minor 75.

The major infestations mainly concerned agricultural lands and Railway properties.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. By the Local Authority | Nil |
| 2. By other bodies or persons | 1* |

*This was a temporary wood bungalow for housing an agricultural worker.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Total number of Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 28 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded | 3 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| (4) Number of Dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 28 |

2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action | 21 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

3. Action under Statutory Powers:-

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | 1 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:- | |
| (a) By Owners | 1 |

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 3 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | 3 |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 of Housing Act 1936:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 2 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. - During the year 22 persons were registered as Wholesalers and Producers of Milk. 6 Milking sheds were re-constructed and brought up to standard.

There is no pasteurized milk sold or produced in the area.

No complaints were made as to the wholesomeness of the milk sold.

No Statutory action was taken against any producer, any infringements under the Milk and Dairies Order being dealt with by informal action.

(b) Meat and Other Foods. - The slaughtering of animals for food is carried out at the Government Abattoir, Northallerton, the meat being transported to the Butchers Shops in the area by Motor Lorry.

The conveyance of meat by this method, particularly during the hotter months of the year is very liable to cause the meat to turn and requires careful handling to avoid wastage of food.

During the year the following tins of food were condemned as unfit:-

Beef 13; Luncheon Meat 19; Steak 2; Prunes 1; Milk 133; Mixed Vegetables 2; Beans 14; Pork Luncheon Meat 35; Chopped Ham 37; Tomatoes 18; Salmon 63; Potatoes 198; Pilchards 32; Herrings 6; Vegetable Salad 1; Fish Balls 3; Carrots 2; Quantity of Sugar.

Also 1 case of fish cakes, $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Cocoa, 8 cwts carrots, 123 Packs of Celery, Gravy Salt etc., $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Meat Pies, 28 lbs Bacon, $67\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Ham, and Pluck, Head, and liver of Sheep.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. Metcalfe,

Sanitary Inspector and
Surveyor.

